

ABSTRACT

A gene encoding a novel membrane protein polypeptide having pre-B cell growth-supporting ability[[,]] and a [[novel]] membrane protein polypeptide consisting of 180 amino acid residues having pre-B cell growth-supporting ability [[or a part of it]]. This gene encodes the membrane protein having pre-B cell growth-supporting ability. A method for producing said novel a membrane protein having pre-B cell growth-supporting ability polypeptide by preparing transformants by transforming a host cell with a vector containing said a gene encoding it and culturing said the resulting transformants. A monoclonal antibody recognizing said novel this membrane protein polypeptide. ~~The above gene encodes the membrane protein having pre-B cell growth-supporting ability.~~ The homogeneous and purified novel membrane protein polypeptide can be produced in large quantities and used to produce monoclonal antibodies useful for identifying and in addition, monoclonal antibodies recognizing said polypeptide can be produced; thus it becomes possible to identify rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and ~~also prepare~~ and for the preparation of reagents for the clinical diagnosis thereof.